

**TOWN OF PEACHAM
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2016
UNAPPROVED**

Present:

Planning Commission: Geoff Sewake, Nick Comerci, Marilyn Magnus, Melissa Laurita Kohl

Clerk to the Board: Melissa Laurita Kohl

Public: Mike Bruton, Brad Vietje, David Magnus, Matt Kiley, Rene Jolly,

The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Board Geoff Sewake at 7:00PM.

1) Additions

- a) Introduction/Meeting Rene Joly, prospective Planning Commission member
 - i) Rene grew up in Peacham and works at the CCSU.
 - ii) **Nick moves to recommend that the Selectboard appoint Rene Joly to the Planning Commission. Geoff seconds. So moved.**

2) Minutes

- a) **Nick moves to approve the minutes of 10/13/15. Marilyn seconds. So moved.**

3) Dark Skies

- a) Marilyn raised concerns about lighting. Some towns have lighting ordinances. She thinks that it might be appropriate for Peacham. She noted that two years ago someone had flashing Christmas lights across the street from the library. If someone had flashing lights with a neighbor across the street it could cause conflict. She also mentioned the lights over the basketball court/skate rink at the school and how they affect the observatory.
- b) Geoff wanted to know if this was about the observatory as a separate area or zone or about the whole town.
- c) The Planning Commission and the public discussed some of the lighting issues that have come up with the school. Mike said that the school had a light on the pole in the parking lot that had to come down for the

observatory. Matt said that the school's lighting was as good as it gets in terms of the lighting on the school (from a light pollution standpoint - it's all full cut off). He said that when he measured the lights over the skate rink they put out hardly any light. Unfortunately, it still shows up distinctly on the observatory's sky camera.

- d) Brad said that light Pollution has 3 forms:
 - i) Sky glow
 - ii) Light trespass (light from one property directly impacts another property)
 - iii) Glare (shining into someone's windows, shining into the eyes of motorists)
- e) Brad said International Dark Sky Association has model ordinances
- f) Brad said that light should be directed downwards, only used when needed, and have a purpose.
- g) Springfield VT has an Observatory Protection District
- h) Geoff thinks that Dark Skies should be looked at in connection to the next bylaws revision or the town plan. Nick and Melissa agreed that it was too much to incorporate now. Geoff wanted to make sure there was interest in the town for this sort of initiative.
- i) Geoff moves to move onto the next agenda item. Marilyn seconds. So moved.**

4) Bylaws Update

- a) Melissa sent the bylaws to Alison Lowe of NVDA today. She presented a timeline for adopting the bylaws. Alison should be able to review the bylaws by the February meeting. The first hearing should be on 2/23.
- b) Marilyn thought the Planning Commission should send out a postcard to all Peacham residents. Everyone agreed that was a good idea. Melissa will check with Alison to see if it is covered in our grant.
- c) Geoff moves to end the discussion on the bylaws. Nick seconds. So moved.**

5) Mail

- a) The Planning Commission reviewed correspondence.

Marilyn moves to adjourn at 8:35pm. Geoff seconds. So moved.